

Message Text

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SUBJ: ROMANIAN RUGS AND TAPESTRIES EXHIBIT

REF: (A) USIA 5612, (B) ARNOLD/FERNANDEZ TELCON OF 2/25

1. WE HAVE RELAYED CONTENTS REFTEL TO COUNCIL'S AMERICAN DESK OFFICER VICTOR CIUHUREZU, WHO SAID HE WOULD NOTIFY DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN RELATIONS VASILE ILEASA IMMEDIATELY. CIUHUREZU ALSO OPINED THAT ILEASA UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER IN A MEETING PAO AND IO HAVE WITH HIM FRIDAY, MARCH 5. WE REPLIED THAT WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO LISTEN TO THE COUNCIL'S VIEWPOINT, EVEN THOUGH OUR DECISION IS IRREVOCABLE (AND CONSISTENT WITH POLICY AND PRACTICE FOLLOWED TO DATE REGARDING ROMANIAN EXHIBITS IN THE U.S.).

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT WE HAVE NEVER INTENDED THAT USG PAY FOR RENTAL OF SITES FOR RUGS AND TAPESTRIES OR ANY OTHER ROMANIAN EXHIBIT. FRANKLY, WE CONSIDER THE ROMANIAN REQUEST TO BE OUT OF HAND, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE INFORMED THEM IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS IN CULTURAL AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS IN 1972 AND 1974 THAT WE COULD NOT DO THIS UNDER U.S. LAW AND IN ANY CASE COULD NOT GET INTO THE BUSINESS OF PAYING EXHIBIT RENTAL COSTS FOR ONE FOREIGN COUNTRY WITHOUT DOING IT FOR ALL. IN VIEW OF THE NEED FOR FLEXIBLE LANGUAGE TO

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SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF BOTH SIDES, PARAGRAPH III (B) OF THE

IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS CLEARLY STATES THAT "SUBJECT TO MUTUAL AGREEMENT" THE RECEIVING SIDE WILL "PROVIDE" - NOT PAY- FOR SITES, GUARDS, MOUNTING, ETC., FOR EXHIBITS. OUR COMMITMENT IS TO HELP FIND SITES WHICH U.S. MUSEUMS CAN PROVIDE AT NO COST TO US. DURING THE RECENT REVIEW TALKS BOTH MITRAN AND PLOSCARU REVEALED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION BUT ASKED TTMT WE SEEK AN EXCEPTION IN THIS CASE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE "FLEXIBILITY

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WE HAVE URGED BOTH SIDES TO APPLY IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES. THEY WERE TOLD THAT OUR STRESS ON "FLEXIBILITY" PERTAINS PRIMARILY TO THE EXCHANGE OF PERSONS CALLED FOR IN ARTICLE I OF THE PROGRAM, AND THAT WE HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO BE FLEXIBLE ON EXHIBITS WITH THE "REIMBURSEMENT FORMUL

LZ NEGOTIATED IN DECEMBER 1974. PAO FERNANDEZ REVIEWED OUR POSITION WITH MONAFU AT THE ROMANIAN LIBRARY IN NEW YORK ON FEBRUARY 25 FOLLOWING REF (B). WE WILL DO SO AGAIN WITH ILEASA AND THE COUNCIL.

3. IN OUR MEETING WITH ILEASA, WE WILL EMPHASIZE THAT A SHOWING OF RUGS AND TAPESTRIES AT BROOKLYN MUSEUM WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ROMANIAN CULTURE IN U.S., AND THAT IT WOULD BE A SHAME FOR THEM TO LOSE THIS OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE OF THEIR UNWILLINGNESS -- CERTAINLY NOT AN INABILITY -- TO PAY THE DOLS 2000 RENTAL FEE. WE ARE IN TOTAL ACCORD WITH AGENCY THAT ROMANIANS THEMSELVES SHOULD ASSUME THIS RESPONSIBILITY, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT BALANCE IN THE "REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT" TO COVER THE BROOKLYN SHOWING -- R&T'S FOURTH SHOWING SO FAR -- IF THEY WANT IT THAT BADLY.
VIETS

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